

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method of forming a protective glaze surface on an architectural tile comprising:

providing a ceramic body;

applying a glaze composition to the ceramic body, the glaze composition comprising a zinc-free glass frit consisting essentially of, by weight, from about 50% to about 70% SiO₂, from about 5% to about 20% CaO, from about 3% to about 15% Al₂O₃, BaO, provided that the content of BaO does not exceed about 20%, up to about 15% B₂O₃, up to about 10% K₂O, up to about 6% Na₂O, up to about 10% ZrO₂, up to about 5% MgO and up to about 5% PbO; and

firing the ceramic body to fuse the glaze composition to a surface thereof.

Claim 8 (original): The method according to claim 7 wherein the applied glaze composition and ceramic body are co-fired during a single fast firing cycle at a temperature of from about 1080°C to about 1180°C.

Claim 9 (original): The method according to claim 7 wherein the glaze composition is applied to the ceramic body after the ceramic body has been once-fired, and wherein the applied glaze composition and the once-fired ceramic body are co-fired during a second firing in a double fast firing cycle at a temperature of from about 1000°C to about 1150°C.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein the glaze composition and the ceramic body are co-fired in a single ceramic firing cycle at a temperature of from about 1160°C to about 1250°C.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method of forming a protective glaze surface on an architectural tile comprising:

- providing a ceramic body;
- applying a glaze composition to the ceramic body, the glaze composition comprising a zinc-free glass frit comprising BaO;
- applying an ink composition comprising Cr⁺³ ions to the applied glaze composition prior to firing; and
- firing the ceramic body to fuse the glaze composition to a surface thereof, wherein a yellow coloration develops in the protective glaze surface where the ink was applied and fired.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein:
the zinc-free glass frit comprises BaO;
an ink composition for decorating ceramic products is applied to the applied glaze composition prior to firing; and
a coloration develops in the protective glaze surface.